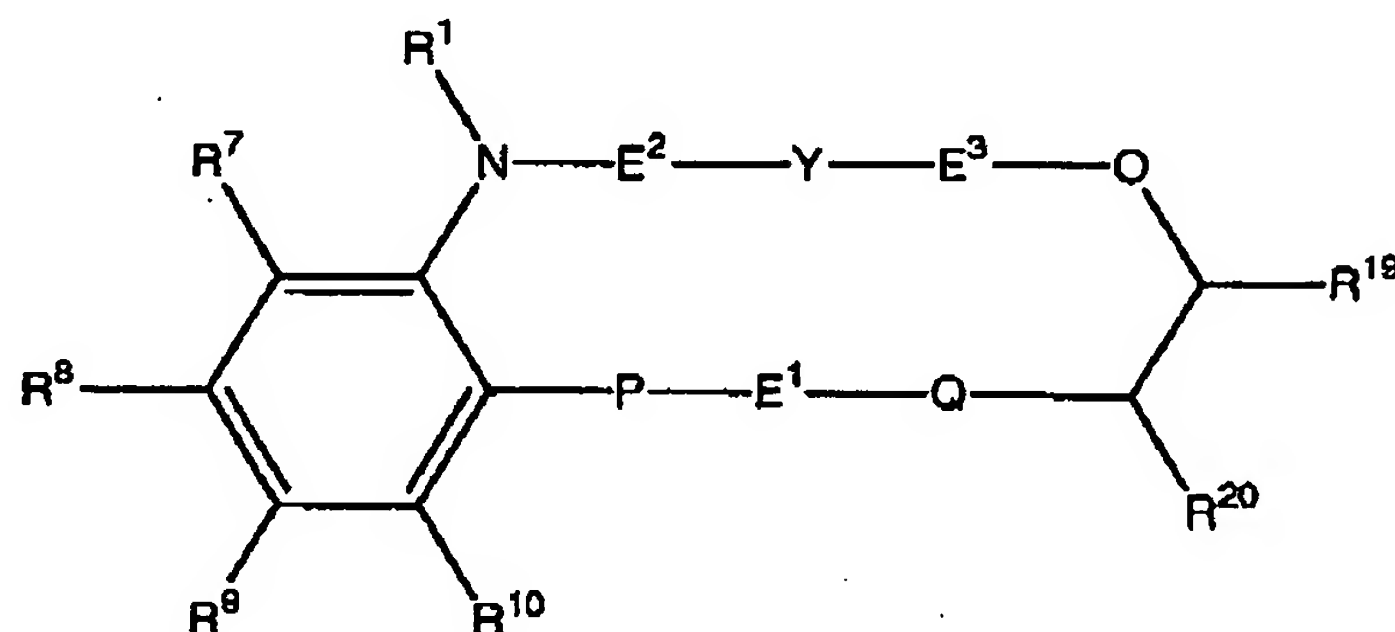


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REMARKS

The Claimed Invention

The present invention is directed to derivatives of crown ether compounds that optionally comprise a dye, a reactive group or a conjugated substance. These crown ether compounds have the following general structure:



wherein the substituents are as defined in the claims. The present crown ether compounds bind sodium, calcium, potassium ions and other ions under physiological conditions and when attached to a fluorophore demonstrate a changed fluorescent signal when bound to the ions. Thus, these crown ether compounds find particular use as indicators of the metal ions.

The Pending Claims

Prior to entry of the attached amendments, Claims 1-38 are pending. Claims 1-27 are directed to the present crown ether compounds. Claims 28-29 are directed to a composition comprising a present crown ether compound and a metal ion. Claims 30-37 are directed to a method for detecting target metal ions in a sample using the present crown ether compounds. Claim 38 is directed to a kit for binding a metal ion in a sample.

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The Office Action

Claims 1-38 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Amendments

No Claims have been amended, cancelled or withdrawn.

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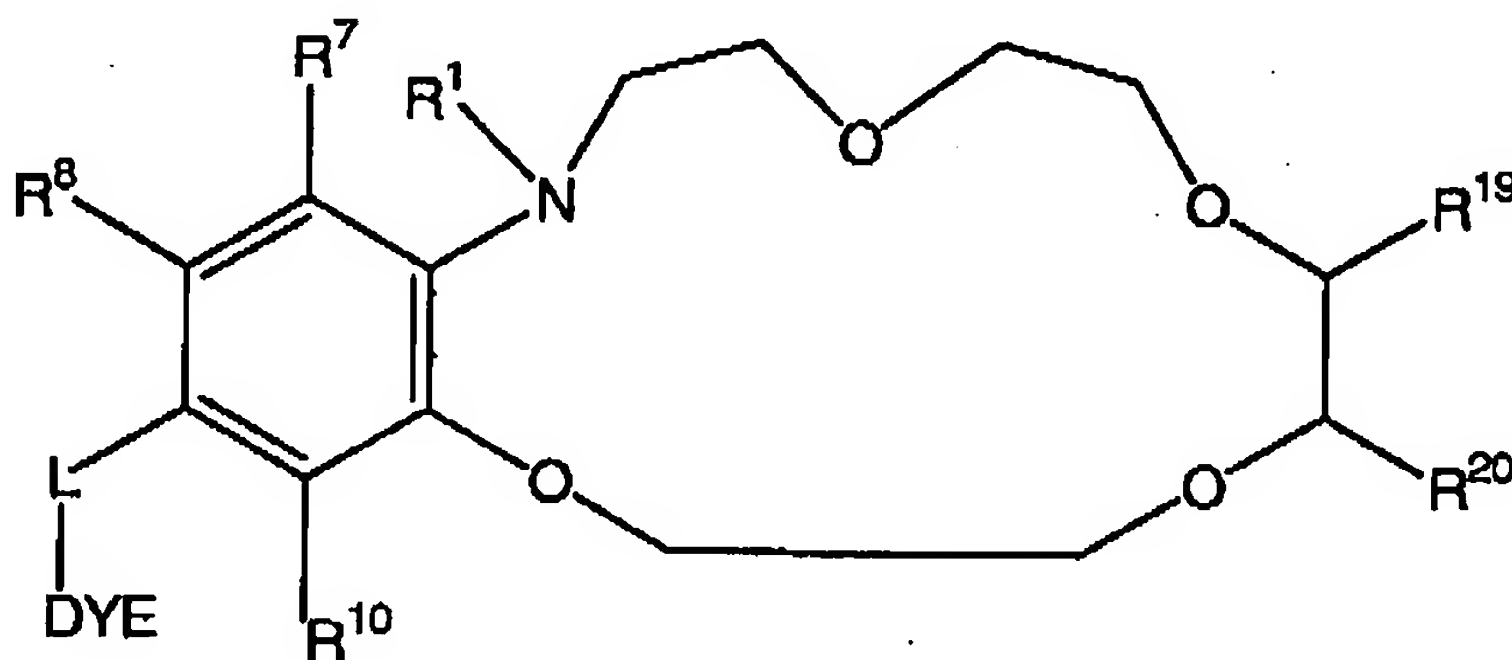
RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the response that follows, the Examiner's Election/Restriction of the Applicant's claimed invention is provided in full text, as identified by indented small bold print, followed by the Applicants response.

Claims 1-38 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising compounds embraced by claim 1. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

Applicants traverse the requirement to elect a single disclosed species and respectfully request that the Examiner examine all of the claims and the respective compounds disclosed in the claims.

For the purposes of initiating a search and examination of the present claims and as required by CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect the compound exemplified as Compound 86 on pages 96-97. The elected species compound has the following core structure:



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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is now ready for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (541) 335-0203.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 17, 2005

Koren J. Anderson
Koren J. Anderson, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 51,061

Molecular Probes, Inc.
29851 Willow Creek Rd.
Eugene, Oregon, 97402
Phone: (541) 335-0203
Facsimile: (541) 335-0354